Hafa Adai!

$25,000 bail for man who threatened woman with machete, handsaw, knife. **PAGE 2**

MTEC engages students with tourism talks. **PAGE 5**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 224

www.saipantribune.com **FRIDAY** NOVEMBER 8, 2024 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Palacios asked to require CUC to produce cost-of-service study

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grassroots, volunteer-based organization Hands of the Community has written to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios urging him to require the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to initiate a cost-of-service study in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a federally owned national energy laboratory.

Muna

See CUC on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Commonwealth Election Commission members at work during ballot tabulation night last Tuesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Democrats raise concerns on whether absentee ballots were secured or not

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands has raised some concerns about this year's elections; specifically concerns about the security of absentee ballots and the breakdown of early voters per precinct.

During the last stretch of ballot tabulations

See DEMS on Page 4

Governor supports revised construction tax bill

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has vetoed the Senate-amended version of House Bill 23-74, a bill that would essentially impose a 3% tax on construction activities. Instead, Palacios has expressed his support for a revised version.

See TAX on Page 4

Kim-Tenorio grateful for voters' faith in her

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CNMI voters resoundingly reaffirmed Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio's place on the bench, last Tuesday, with an overwhelming 84.21% of ballots cast in favor of her retention.

» As she seeks to better serve community

Out of 11,767 votes, 9,909 supported keeping her in office, while 1,858 opted against it. Kim-Tenorio's retention secured a "yes" majority across all election precincts on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, demonstrating what seems to

See GRATEFUL on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

NMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio smiles for *Saipan Tribune* after an interview yesterday afternoon at Guma' Hustisia in Susupe.

INSIDE

BUSINES

Best Deal General Merchandise moved to its new Beach Road in Oleai location last May and it has enjoyed brisk sales since.

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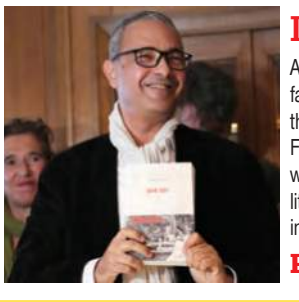
NATION

American presidential elections are a moment when the nation holds up a mirror to look at itself. They are a reflection of values and dreams, of grievances and scores to be settled.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

As one of the Arab world's largest book fairs opens in Algeria on Wednesday, there is one conspicuous absence. French-Algerian author Kamel Daoud, who won France's most prestigious literary award earlier this week, was not invited to this year's event.

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Local

$25,000 bail for man who threatened woman with machete, handsaw, knife

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After allegedly threatening to kill a woman with a kitchen knife, handsaw, and machete, a man was arrested and is facing a $25,000 cash bail.

Following his arrest, Francisco Cabrera Babauta, 58, appeared before the NMI Superior Court and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Nov. 1, 2024, in Susupe, where bail was maintained.

Babauta is currently facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace. His preliminary hearing was held yesterday with assistant public defender Charlene Brown representing him and assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas representing the government.

A further hearing is set for Nov. 20, and arraignment was moved to Dec. 2.

According to court files, late on Oct. 30, police officers responded to a disturbing the peace incident at Brother's Market in Kagman I. They found a distressed woman in her car outside who reported that Babauta was at her home. After interviewing her, officers went to her residence and detained Babauta.

The victim said she witnessed Babauta arguing with his son-in-law and attempted to intervene. Babauta allegedly became irate, cussing at her and demanding she leave. She stated he then grabbed a machete from the table, held it to her neck, and asked if she wanted him to kill her. He subsequently put down the machete, picked up a kitchen knife, and repeated the threat.

After putting the knife down, he allegedly picked up a handsaw before finally sitting in a chair. The woman said that she walked away and drove to the store to call for police assistance, saying this was not the first instance of such behavior.

Police collected the machete kitchen knife, and handsaw as evidence. Babauta was arrested, booked, and detained at the Department of Corrections.

In his statement, Babauta claimed he argued with his son-in-law over his conversation with his grandson. The alleged the victim persisted in questioning him despite his requests to be left alone.

The victim later told police she took her purse and left after warming food quickly, feeling scared. She drove to Brother's Market, where she called for help.

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GRATEFUL

From page 1

be strong island-wide confidence in her role on the judiciary.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday Kim-Tenorio shared her gratitude to the community and voters. "I'm very grateful for the community for supporting me and for voting yes to keep me on the bench. So long as I'm here and the people want me to continue as a judge, I will work hard and I will continue to develop new programs and explore new ideas so that it's beneficial to the community. Also to give the community a different view of the CNMI Drug Court. When people think of court, they think, oh, 'that's a place you don't want to go, that's a place where bad things happen.' And I want to change that perception of the courts, that that's not all we do, that we reunify families, that we help people who have drug addictions or whatnot, that it could be a healing place. And so that's what I would like to continue doing."

Looking ahead, Kim-Tenorio shared that she hopes to continue to expand the drug and treatment court to help those affected by drugs, especially when rehabilitating. She also shared that often people see her as the drug court judge.

"So, I think that's kind of what defines me in a lot of ways as a judge is treatment courts, and that is something that I'm very passionate about. Drug court fell on my lap. It's not something that I started from the ground up. It was actually started by retired judge [David] Wiseman and he was exploring it and then he retired and he passed the torch on to me and so I researched it and got it off the ground."

The CNMI Drug Court will turn eight years old in December since its first hearing and through the drug court, Kim-Tenorio realized that her view on the criminal justice system has drastically changed in terms of what works and what doesn't work.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DEMS

From page 1

last Wednesday morning, the executive director of the local Democratic Party, Nola Hix, raised concerns about discrepancies in early voting results and the security of absentee ballots.

Hix's protest came after Commonwealth Election Commission commissioner Jose Kiyoshi expressed that 26 absentee ballots had to be hand-counted as they were rejected by the tabulation machine due to either being wet or folded.

Kiyoshi, for his part, told the Democratic Party representative that there is a proper way to raise these concerns and during tabulation is not the time.

He instructed the party representatives to write their concerns in a letter and submit it to the CEC for review after the count.

After all ballots had been counted last Wednesday morning, CNMI Democratic Party vice chair Luella Ichihara Marciano told the media that all their issues will be brought up through a letter.

"We are going to be submitting a letter inquiring about the discrepancies from the early vote numbers. We want a breakdown of the precincts, which areas came in to vote early. They couldn't release that information. There were also other issues like with absentee ballots. When it arrives in the mail, where is it stashed or locked up? The ballots that were wet, how did they get wet? I know the commissioner said it could be when they were being mailed but it leaves us with the question that when the ballots are picked up from the post office, are they really secured? Who is watching it? Is it locked up or is it accessible to others? Those are the issues that we also need to address," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TAX

From page 1

Last week, Palacios vetoed H.B. 23-74 House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1; a bill that was introduced by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) over a year ago to impose an additional 3% tax to the yearly gross revenue that is directly derived from construction activities for a period of three years.

While he vetoed the bill, Palacios did express support for a new version of the bill.

The House of Representatives has since drafted a revision.

In a message to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), he said while he supports measures to increase revenue to sustain essential public services, there must be a balance.

"In this time of severe fiscal challenge for the Commonwealth, I support this measure to raise much-needed revenue to sustain essential public services. The Legislature's conviction that this measure passes the cost-benefit analysis, in part by mitigating the strains construction activity imposes on the Commonwealth infrastructure," Palacios said.

"H.B. 23-74 is insufficiently protective of the reliance interests of contractors, which entered into construction contracts prior to the bill's effective date. Retroactively imposing new taxes on vested contractual interest is unfair and may be unlawful," the governor said.

Last week, the House passed a similar bill, H.B. 23-120, by an 18-1 vote.

Introduced by Villagomez, the bill states that the 3% construction tax would not apply retroactively to contracts awarded on or before Dec. 31, 2024, unless there is a change order that occurs after Jan. 1, 2025.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(10/16/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
• **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XIV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

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ATTORNEY AT LAW
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P.O. Box 7862 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 285-3750
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Velma Ann Manibusan Palacios

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0244**
VERONICA INOCENCIA MANIBUSAN PALACIOS,	**NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY; and**
Deceased.	**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
	Date: Thursday November 21, 2024 Time:10:00 a.m. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE VERONICA INOCENCIA MANIBUSAN PALACIOS, OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Velma Ann Manibusan Palacios has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to Probate the Will and for Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Veronica Inocencia Manibusan Palacios, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver M. Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

CUC

From page 1

The organization, headed by Candice Muna, Analee Villagomez, and Alexandra Villagomez, in a letter to Palacios, said that on behalf of all CNMI ratepayers, they strongly urge Palacios to require CUC to initiate a cost-of-service study.

"This study is essential to accurately identify the true cost of providing power, water, and wastewater services to government, commercial, and residential ratepayers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For full transparency, we would like to confirm that we have no direct affiliation with NREL or any other similar entity," said the letter.

Hands of the Community, or *Kannai Komunidat-Payúur Toulap*, a volunteer-led group of community advocates, has gathered more than 2,347 signatures in an online and physical petition from CNMI residents and supporters in just two weeks, calling for greater transparency, accountability, and affordability in our CUC utility services.

"This overwhelming response underscores the pressing need for a transparent and credible analysis that reveals the actual cost structure behind CUC's utility services, thereby ensuring that rates are both fair and reflective of genuine costs," said the letter.

The letter explains that NREL-led cost-of-service study would bring unparalleled credibility and rigor to this essential work.

"As a respected entity of the U.S. Department of Energy, NREL has the expertise and independence necessary to ensure unbiased, transparent, and community- focused findings. NREL's team approach, utilizing a diverse group of subject matter experts, would deliver a holistic and reliable assessment far beyond what a single consultant could provide. Additionally, the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs offers federal funding specifically for studies such as this one, making an NREL partnership both financially feasible and logistically sound," said the letter.

According to the letter, despite NREL's longstanding expertise and offers to assist, CUC management has allegedly consistently bypassed NREL's involvement since at least 2015, as referenced in the CUC Integrated Resource Plan of 2015.

"Instead, CUC has engaged a private firm, Economists.com LLC, whose preexisting contract with CUC, paid for with ratepayer funds, and limited transparency raises concerns over accountability and transparency in rate-setting practices. This approach has undermined public trust, as it places a critical study that affects the lives of all ratepayers in the hands of a private entity without the same level of public oversight, credibility, and a team of subject matter experts as NREL," said the letter.

Furthermore, in her role as a grants writer at CUC, Muña says she has witnessed CUC management's repeated disregard for NREL's offers to conduct this critical Cost of Service Study.

"CUC management's repeated disregard for federal resources and expertise has resulted in delays that hinder an unbiased, federally-backed analysis of utility costs. To rebuild public trust and ensure a fair rate-setting process, we respectfully request your intervention to mandate that CUC collaborate with NREL to conduct the cost-of-service study as well as other necessary studies, such as the Electrical Rate Study. By requiring CUC to work with NREL, you will ensure that CNMI's ratepayers and taxpayers receive a credible and objective assessment that prioritizes transparency, integrity, and equity for all utility users," said the group.

MTEC engages students with tourism talks

Fresh off its kick-off of annual school presentations on Rota, the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority engaged students at three schools in Saipan on Oct. 31, 2024, with the message, "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

The annual outreach aims to engage 4th graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with current information and activities highlighting The Marianas' primary economic driver, how tourism impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even at a young age. In addition to 4th graders, Oleai Elementary School had 5th graders join the presentation, as well.

"Our kids need to understand the importance of tourism in our economy," said school principal Alisa Pangelinan, who also holds an A.A.S. degree in Hospitality Management from Northern Marianas College. "We start off these bright minds with the importance of tourism, and what we can also learn from the kids is, what's trending…Tiktok, social media, different avenues to attract visitors."

Students also had the opportunity to share their knowledge, thoughts, and opinions about tourism through the interactive presentation.

"The students will remember that there are so many ways that they can help our tourism industry," said Teacher Christina Ruiz. "The MTEC presentation was great!"

The presentation also includes an overview of the work the MVA, including marketing and its annual signature events such as Christmas in The Marianas in December, Rota Marathon in January, Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in February, and Saipan Marathon in March. Following Oleai Elementary, the outreach team engaged 7th graders at Dandan Middle School.

"Tourism is a way of presenting ourselves and our culture to the rest of the world in various ways to help our local economy," said 7th grade teacher Jerry Bahillo.

Lastly, the MYWAVE Club of Saipan Southern High School welcomed the team over lunch in the school library.

"The MYWAVE Club has provided SSHS students with the opportunity to learn about the tourism industry through annual conferences, hotel tours, visits to historical sites, and service activities like beach cleanups, marathons, golf tournaments, airport and seaport greetings, and Christmas in the Marianas in partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority," said club advisor Rosalyn Ajoste, "We look forward to trying new activities that align with this year's focus on planting peace and fostering cross-cultural understanding."

The outreach was led by MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, MTEC board member Catherine Perry, and MVA Community Projects specialists Jack Aranda and Sherman Santos.

MTEC is also preparing for its annual MTEC Tourism Summit with school MY WAVE Clubs in January 2025.

For more information or to donate to MTEC, contact Aranda at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200 for more information. ***(PR)***

MTEC

Students at Oleai Elementary School learn about the Marianas tourism industry on Oct. 30, 2024, from Marianas Tourism Education Council board chair Vicky Benavente, front left, and other representatives of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority at the school in Oleai.

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Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Acting Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: November 8, 2024

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) - Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is reviewing the following proposed federal agency activities for consistency with the enforceable policies of the CNMI Coastal Management Program:

1) Department of Defense (DOD) Department of the Navy (DON) Consistency Determination for the Tinian Harbor Geotechnical and Soil Investigation

2) Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Consistency Determination for Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) Facility, Saipan Airport.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the CNMI coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP). Comments may be submitted within 15 days of the publication of this notice. This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42.

For more information, please visit the public notices on https://dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/. For questions, or to submit comments for the above submissions, please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at (670) 664-8300, fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp; or PO Box 501304 Saipan, MP 96950.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Get serious about improving youth mental health

Where is the sensible balance between respecting a family's privacy and protecting people from what can happen behind closed doors? That's one of the many questions raised by the horrific slaughter of a couple and three of their five children near Fall City, Washington, on the morning of Oct. 21.

The family's eldest child, a 15-year-old boy, has been charged with five counts of first-degree aggravated murder and one count of attempted murder, for shooting his 11-year-old sister. She told police that she survived by "playing dead" and then climbed out a window to escape.

As often happens when reality explodes from behind an ideal public image, neighbors said the family, who home-schooled their children and were active in the community, looked "perfect" from outside. Clearly, all was not perfect inside their lakefront home.

Scant information has been released. The youth's attorney says people who knew him have described the boy as "kind and caring." The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office notes that he has no prior criminal history. One thing appears clear: A deeply distressed teenager had mental health needs that were not being met—and access to a gun.

A paper just released by the Children's Alliance points out that Washington ranks 48th nationally in youth mental health. That measure tallies both the degree of need (high) and the availability of publicly subsidized care (low). It also notes a status quo at the state level that is both backward and untenable: Despite years of documented concern, no single official oversees this area of state policy.

It's not for lack of money. The Legislature appropriated an additional $356 million for 2024-25 to tackle adolescent mental health through public schools, part of a seven-year package totaling well over $1 billion. Yet, incredibly, only 8% of the funding increases go toward high school staff who can provide therapy, according to the Children's Alliance. Nor does that money do anything for home-schooled students unless their parents explicitly ask the local district for a mental health screening.

This is only the latest example of well-intended legislation passed without sufficient guardrails to ensure it works. (See also: McCleary school funding reforms; juvenile justice laws aimed at rehabilitation; etc.)

Equally nonsensical, Washington has at least five state agencies that touch the issue of adolescent mental health—the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Health Care Authority, Department of Health, the Department of Social and Human Services and the Department of Children, Youth and Families—but none is tasked with overall system oversight. Nor is there a unified system at work.

No wonder some 80,000 young people assessed as having significant, untreated depression are falling through the cracks.

Telehealth—therapy over Zoom—could be a cost-effective

See SERIOUS on Page 7

IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT THE LA TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST DIDN'T OFFER PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENTS.
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Iran is in a difficult position as it considers retaliating against Israel

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Late last month, Israel executed a three-round airstrike campaign on Iranian military targets in retaliation for Tehran's ballistic missile attack some three weeks earlier. Approximately 20 Iranian military sites were hit, and the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted about its success after the operation concluded. According to Israeli officials, Tehran's missile production capability was severely damaged to the point in which it may take a year before Iran can rebuild it. (Iran still has hundreds of ballistic missiles.)

The Iranian government largely played down the attack. Iranian military officials insisted the Israeli strikes caused only limited damage. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, delivered a speech in which he said the Israeli attack shouldn't be " exaggerated or downplayed," deliberately vague phrasing that was likely meant as a placeholder as his government debated what to do next.

The rhetoric from Iran, however, has gotten noticeably more violent in the days since Khamenei gave that speech. On Thursday, Gen. Ali Fadavi, the second in command of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, told Iranian media that there would be a definite Iranian response. An official in the supreme leader's office offered more fire-breathing invective. Khamenei, who a few days prior was telling people not to overreact, apparently had a change of heart over the weekend, vowing a "crushing response" against either Israel or the United States.

Some may conclude that Khamenei is trying to save face, but the administration of President Joe Biden is treating the remarks seriously. On Friday, the Pentagon announced that more B-52 long-range bombers, tanker aircraft, ballistic missile defense destroyers and another fighter squadron would be deployed to the Middle East over the coming weeks and months. U.S. officials have used back channels to tell the Iranians that if Tehran chooses to escalate further, Washington wouldn't be able to hold Israel back from unleashing even stronger retaliation. If public reports are true, Tehran hasn't heeded the messages from the U.S.; Iran reportedly told Arab diplomats that an Iranian counterattack against Israel will involve heavier warheads as well as participation from its conventional army.

But tough words aside, we shouldn't ignore that Iran is in a very difficult spot. Whatever it decides to do will have costs.

In essence, Khamenei has two fundamental choices: Let last month's Israeli retaliation be the end of the story or continue the tit-for-tat with yet another attack against Israel. The first would be seen as a cop-out by hawkish elements in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which saw one of its facilities hit and its missile production capacity depleted. The IRGC brass is cognizant of the optics of Iran looking weak on the international stage and also worried about how standing down would further erode Iranian deterrence, which has taken a massive hit over the last 13 months with the degradation of Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The relatively poor performance of Iran's missiles—only a few dozen of the nearly 200 missiles Iran launched on Oct. 1 breached Israel's air defense network—doesn't exactly cause shudders in Tehran's enemies either. Khamenei, too, shares these concerns. Would restraint, for instance, embolden Israel to lose all of its inhibitions?

Yet a forceful response carries its fair share of problems as well. It's almost a guarantee that Israel would strike back even harder—particularly if an Iranian attack killed Israeli civilians. The damage inside of Iran would likely be greater. Israel's Oct. 26 operation destroyed some of Iran's most technologically advanced S-300 air defense systems, leaving many of Tehran's strategic sites—refineries, oil platforms, nuclear research facilities and centrifuge production sites—extremely vulnerable to future Israeli airstrikes. Netanyahu, at the urging of the United States, avoided hitting those areas the last time; the Iranians would be foolish to assume they would be off-limits again. Khamenei would no doubt like to shed some blood in Israel, but if it comes at the cost of a significant deterioration in Tehran's military power or in the form of a major setback in its nuclear program, is it worth it?

Khamenei isn't a stupid man. He understands the dynamics at play. Despite his rhetoric over the last week, the 85-year-old cleric is probably still trying to figure out a response. He will try to find a Goldilocks scenario in which Iran can retaliate forcefully against Israel but not so forcefully as to encourage a more significant Israeli military attack that would cause even more problems for Tehran. That response could even be nonkinetic, or something that doesn't involve the use of force but is still viewed in Jerusalem and Washington as a step up the escalation ladder. One example would be kicking all international nuclear inspectors out of Iran or, more dramatically, formally declaring a change in Iran's nuclear doctrine. Senior Iranian officials have been talking about the latter more frequently over the last year, so a nuclear policy evolution can't be entirely discounted. Yet at a time when Israeli officials are already itching to strike Tehran's nuclear program, would this even be a smart play?

Iran won't be able to escape some kind of damage. The only question is what that damage will look like.

Truth 69: It is done—kudos & thanks!

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.

The truth of the matter is we had a fair election, and the decision has been made for us going forward and it is imperative that we all accept the fact that it is done and move on. Kudos to the winners starting with our delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds, senator-elect Manny Castro and the many others who won, as the people have chosen you and we are all praying for you to be successful on behalf of the people. As VP Harris said, "it is OK to feel sad and disappointed but it's going to be OK" and I would like to add a genuine thanks to those who tried and lost. Our democracy is strong and has withstood the test of time and hardships and having new and different leaders does not mean "the world is going to end." For those who are rejoicing don't forget the politics are over, as real work must now begin. No bragging, as only time will tell the final story on our choices.

With our economy being at the top of the list of our delegate for the people, I think it is all important that the governor does his job to help our new delegate unlike the fragile and sometimes nonexistent relationship between Kilili and previous governors. Just as we are taught in church that "we must make the first step and then God will make two," this is also true when it comes to our relationship with our fathers in Washington. In other words, the earnest for our economy is still on the governor, as our delegate can only ask Congress to make two steps for something to help our economy after the governor makes the first step, as our delegate can't fix our economy by herself. It must be a team effort to deal with our fathers in Washington that is truly a give-and-take relationship which we learned the hard way with immigrations being taken away from the CNMI. It is also the fact and critical to our success that our politics in the CNMI be on the same page with our new delegate, unlike it was with Kilili and previous governors. This is really an opportunity to establish a real game plan for our economic recovery but if the governor doesn't do his part, then our delegate will surely be challenged when it comes to generating economic recovery efforts and funding beyond what Kilili had done.

As for our new legislature members, it is a new day for the CNMI and the people and hopefully you will reset the efforts of the Legislature to really tackle problems and solve them beyond the on-it game of safe politics that has prevailed for entirely too long. As the Romans say, "fortune favors the brave" and not politicians who are afraid to speak-out and really do something for the people. Fixing the CNMI's economy and improving the quality of our social life is a daunting task that can only be accomplished through genuine planning and the fortitude to carry it out, as too long our legislature has just remained silent on issues and doing nothing until election season. We the people need bills and laws to fix things like the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission and the Commonwealth Casino Commission that need to be resolved for many obvious and commonly known reasons, yet they still exist. It's time to really do something as Michell says and let go of the past practices of safe do-nothing politics.

I've said this before that greatness can only be achieved when the opportunity presents itself, and given our economy it's obvious the opportunity for greatness is all around us. The question is who has the desire and fortitude to want to do great things for the CNMI and the people or was it just about you 'sitting as locals say. It is no more about sitting but about doing the real work for the people and it is not all on the governor to find new revenue sources for the people but every elected representative and senator to do their due diligence to help find new revenue sources and stop continuing to raise taxes that only puts the burden on the people when it's really your responsibility to fix it! God bless everyone who ran in this past election and godspeed to those who won, as we the people need you to be great politicians this time around if we are to ever fix our economy and improve our quality of life.

We need a government that works

By KEVIN FRAZIER
The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University and a Tarbell fellow.

The first—and really only—order of business for the government is to solve problems beyond the grasp of a single person or a small community. In exchange for that service, we the people surrender some of our income and liberty. This grand bargain breaks down when the government decides it's got other things to do besides take care of everything from our sewage to our space debris.

The longer the government falls short of our expectations, the more likely the people will be to opt out of their own obligations, such as voting. This dangerous tit-for-tat is hard to reverse. A less effective government sparks a less dutiful public, which makes it harder for the government to perform, and so on.

That's precisely why the first agenda item for every politician who wins in November ought to be basic government work. For Congress, it's time to get serious about regulating artificial intelligence. A series of performative hearings in which the celebrities of AI, such as Sam Altman, made flashy appearances on Capitol Hill have yet to generate meaningful legislation. The AI Policy Roadmap recently released by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and three other senators did little to assuage concerns that Congress is happy to let states lead on AI governance.

A handful of small bills might address specific AI issues, but—absent passage of comprehensive legislation—the public is right to question if lawmakers are taking their part of the deal seriously.

For the president, the relative tranquility of the present is the proper time to prepare for future, inevitable emergencies. The federal government's response to COVID-19 was far from perfect. From the initial confusion over who should wear a mask and when, to prolonged and troubling efforts to quash debate over the proper response, there is tremendous room for improvement.

The nature of our interconnected and global world means that another crisis will unfortunately emerge sooner than later. Imagine the good that would come about from the president overseeing massive emergency drills in preparation of threats like the deployment of a bioweapon. Picture how much smoother the COVID response would have been if the American people had preexisting stores of emergency supplies. These efforts are flashy but they are what's required by an effective government.

For the courts, the integration of AI into our legal system should not be left to chance. State and federal courts alike have clogged dockets and insufficient support for individuals who cannot afford a lawyer but also cannot afford to lose whatever claim brought them before the court. AI will not and cannot entirely solve those issues, but the technology should be used to the greatest extent possible to help those who too commonly find that our legal system fails to provide the justice it promises.

None of these initiatives are partisan. And all of them go to the purpose of the government: solving problems. There's a long list of similar, basic projects that would go a long way toward making the government more effective and efficient. The longer this grows, the greater the odds of (even more) discontent and distrust. That's why candidates across the spectrum should focus less on short-term, shiny projects and much more on what will make American lives easier both now and for decades to come.

The latter kind of project won't get headlines on Fox or MSNBC, but it will keep the wheels of government turning, which is no small feat given decades of rust.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A silver lining...

Dear friends,

At least 4,067 amazing supporters went out and voted for me for the delegate race. We may have fallen short of winning, but we must be able to graciously accept the decision of our people, and give our delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds the opportunity and assistance to do well in Washington, D.C. If she does well, the CNMI does well. We must work together and succeed together for a prosperous Commonwealth.

There is sadness in my heart, as you can expect, of not winning, probably more so for my committee and supporters than myself. I felt earlier that I've let them down, that I didn't do enough, or couldn't be enough. But the kind messages and calls and visits I received made me realize that the friendship and support you gave me was not contingent on me winning. Your compassion and love and kindness are what motivates me to continue to do what I can to help our people, whether in or out of office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst and his family in this undated photo.

You have given me a good 10 years as a House representative, and I will always cherish the work we've done together as partners in our community. That will continue, along with my love and dedication to you and your family. You have welcomed me and my family into your homes and hearts, and have been with me in my highs and lows in life. You've taught me what selfless service means, and that compassion and forgiveness are requisites of being a true public servant leader.

If there is a silver lining to losing this election, it is that I do not have to be away from my wife Daisy and children while working in D.C., as we had decided they would stay here and I would see them when I would come back home every month or two. My family is my world and I know that would have been the most difficult part of this job...missing my son's soccer games, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, and other events. As I've grown older, I've learned just how short life is, and how meaningful our time here is on earth. Within a span of a couple of years, I've lost both my parents, my mother-in-law, my stepfather-in-law, relatives, and friends. Every day is a blessing. Every day is an opportunity to do good and help others. I've learned to forgive rather than seek vengeance. I've learned to pray in times where I felt hopeless. And I've learned to lean on family and friends in the most difficult of times. Those who judge and attack me do not know me, and that is okay. I pray they find peace in their hearts and wish them well.

To our friends and family, our committee, and to all our supporters, I love you all and wish you the best for you and your family. Undangkulu na si Yu'us ma'asi, Ghilisow, Maraming salamat po.

With love,

Ed Propst

SERIOUS

From page 6

method for getting more young people connected to care, the Children's Alliance suggests. The advocacy group also wants Washington's next governor to appoint a cabinet member whose job would be ensuring care is available, wherever or however a child attends school, and coordinating access to it.

Anyone following the murder case near Fall City would have to conclude this is the very least we should do.

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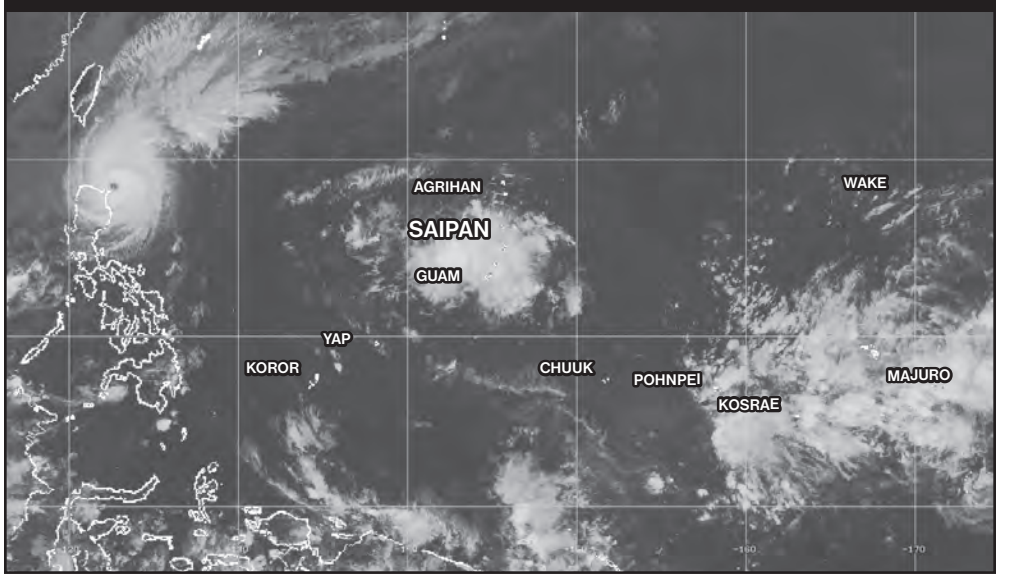
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny. East wind around 17 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.	Isolated showers. Partly sunny. East northeast wind around 18 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	Showers likely. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86º / 80º	85º / 80º	85º / 80º	84º / 79º	85º / 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:29 AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough is moving through the Marianas today and is expected to bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms with it. Currently, radar imagery shows a thin line of shower passing Guam and Rota. One cell to the far southeast waters of Guam has had a few lightning flashes. Scattered showers are anticipated through the beginning of next week. Seas will remain between 5 to 7 feet. Winds are expected to be gentle to moderate through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Sunny	84° / 78°
Yap	Sunny	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Sunny	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:54 AM	11:24 PM	-
Saturday	12:42 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:22 AM	1:26 PM
Monday	-	1:19 AM	2:07 PM
Tuesday	-	2:16 AM	2:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Hong Kong	Sunny	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 55°
Manila	Showers	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°
Osaka	Sunny	63° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	66° / 54°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Salem	Thunderstorm	72° / 60°
San Francisco	Rain	62° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 43°
Tokyo	Windy	64° / 48°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	52° / 41°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:56 AM	Low Tide	-0.23
2:05 PM	High Tide	1.67
7:35 PM	Low Tide	1.32
10:52 PM	High Tide	1.44

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184	00:40AM	8:50AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Move to Oleai a boon for Best Deal General Merchandise

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
jercymaximo05@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Best Deal General Merchandise moved to its new Beach Road in Oleai location last May and it has enjoyed brisk sales since.

A store that specializes in premium automotive and industrial products, with a particular focus on PureGuard Oil, bicycles, Best Flame butane, and bond paper, Best Deal opened in 2013 with the mission of offering high-quality lubricants and related goods while providing essential products at affordable prices.

With an experienced team trained in the latest lubrication technologies, Best Deal remains committed to providing unmatched service and support to its clientele.

Reflecting on the decision to bring this business to Saipan back in 2013, Best Deal operations manager, Rodolfo Catindig Jr., explained, "Opening on Saipan allowed us to address a significant market need for high-quality automotive and industrial products, bicycles, and bond paper. The opportunity to serve the CNMI market with our premium products and specialized knowledge was a key factor in establishing our business here."

Launched during challenging economic times, the company has strived to demonstrate resilience, recognizing that the Saipan community has a steady demand for reliable, top-tier products, even in uncertain conditions.

Catindig added, "By providing essential goods and exceptional service, we aim to support local businesses and contribute positively to the economic landscape. What differentiates Best Deal from other general merchandise stores on Saipan is that we specialize in premium automotive and industrial products, bicycles, and bond paper," said Catindig. "Our focus on high-quality lubricants, coupled with our expertise and ongoing training in lubrication technology, allows us to offer unparalleled service and support."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Best Deal General Merchandise also sells all sorts of bicycles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In preparation for the holiday season, Best Deal General Merchandise has special sale on Christmas decorations.

This commitment to specialized knowledge and dedication to quality sets Best Deal apart from general merchandise retailers on Saipan.

The move to Oleai has also made Best Deal more visible, making it more accessible to the island community.

Currently, Best Deal is running a raffle promotion—with any purchase of $50 or more, customers receive a ticket for a chance to win exciting prizes such as a Mounting Bike Talon 3 valued at $850, a Dewalt Drill worth $350, or a Dewalt Circular Saw priced at $259.

They also offer store-wide discounts ranging from 5% to 20% on select items. In preparation for the holiday season, there's a special sale on Christmas decorations as well.

Best Deal offers layaway options, giving customers flexibility with deposits and payment schedules. They also provide warranties on select items, including a six-month warranty on laptops, a 1-month warranty on kitchen appliances, and a two-month warranty on solar lights.

With its extensive product range, Best Deal General Merchandise has quickly become a trusted choice for quality goods on Saipan, embodying reliability and affordability in each of its products.

Best Deal is open from Monday through Saturday, 8am to 5pm, and closed on Sundays. It's located beside Vizion Insurance, near New Downtown Market in Beach Road, Oleai. For inquiries, they can be reached at (670) 234-8885, via email at sales@bestdealsaipan.com, or on Facebook at Best Deal Saipan Merchandise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Best Deal General Merchandise is located beside Vizion Insurance, near New Downtown Market in Beach Road, Oleai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Best Deal opened in 2013 with the mission of offering high-quality lubricants and related goods while providing essential products at affordable prices.

Nation

Trump has vowed to shake some of democracy's pillars

WASHINGTON (AP)—American presidential elections are a moment when the nation holds up a mirror to look at itself. They are a reflection of values and dreams, of grievances and scores to be settled.

The results say much about a country's character, future and core beliefs. On Tuesday, America looked into that mirror and more voters saw former president Donald Trump, delivering him a far-reaching victory in the most contested states.

He won for many reasons. One of them was that a formidable number of Americans, from different angles, said the state of democracy was a prime concern.

The candidate they chose had campaigned through a lens of darkness, calling the country "garbage" and his opponent "stupid," a "communist" and "the b-word."

The mirror reflected not only a restive nation's discontent but childless cat ladies, false stories of pets devoured by Haitian immigrant neighbors, a sustained emphasis on calling things "weird," and a sudden bout of Democratic "joy" now crushed. The campaign will be remembered both for profound developments, like the two assassination attempts on Trump, and his curious chatter about golfer Arnold Palmer's genitalia.

Even as Trump prevailed, most voters said they were very or somewhat concerned that electing Trump would bring the U.S. closer to being an authoritarian country, where a single leader has unchecked power, according to the AP VoteCast survey. Still, 1 in 10 of those voters backed him anyway. Nearly 4 in 10 Trump voters said they wanted complete upheaval in how the country is run.

In Trump's telling, the economy was in shambles, even when almost every measure said otherwise, and the border was an open sore leeching murderous migrants, when the actual number of crossings had dropped precipitously. All this came wrapped in his signature language of catastrophism.

His win, only the second time in U.S. history that a candidate won the presidency in non-consecutive terms, demonstrated Trump's keen ear for what stirs emotions, especially the sense of millions of voters of being left out—whether because someone else cheated or got special treatment or otherwise fell to the ravages of the enemy within.

That's whom Americans decisively chose.

The centuries-old democracy delivered power to the presidential candidate who gave voters fair warning he might take core elements of that democracy apart.

After already having tried to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power when he lost to President Joe Biden in 2020, Trump mused that he would be justified if he decided to pursue "the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution."

This, in contrast to the oath of office he took, and will again, to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" as best he can.

One rough and decidedly imperfect measure of whether Trump might mean what he says is how many times he says it. His direct threat to try to end or suspend the Constitution was largely a one-off.

But the 2024 campaign was thick with his vows, rally after rally, interview after interview, that if realized would upend democracy's basic practices, protections and institutions as Americans have known them.

And now, he says after his win, "I will govern by a simple motto: promises made, promises kept."

Through the campaign, to lusty cheers, Trump promised to use presidential power over the justice system to go after his personal political adversaries. He then raised the stakes further by threatening to enlist military force against such domestic foes—"the enemy from within."

Doing so would shatter any semblance of Justice Department independence and turn soldiers against citizens in ways not seen in modern times.

He's promised to track down and deport immigrants in massive numbers, raising the prospect of using military or military-style assets for that as well.

Spurred by his fury and denialism over his 2020 defeat, Trump's supporters in some state governments have already engineered changes in how votes are cast, counted and affirmed, an effort centered on the false notion that the last election was rigged against him.

On Tuesday, Trump won an election in the time of a Democratic administration. The effort to revise election procedures will now be fought out by states in his time.

Yet another pillar of the system is also in his sights—the non-political civil service and its political masters, whom Trump together calls the deep state.

He means the generals who didn't always heed him last time, but this time shall.

He means the Justice Department people who refused to indulge his desperate effort to cook up votes he didn't get in 2020. He means the bureaucrats who dragged their heels on parts of his first-term agenda and whom Trump now wants purged.

Trump wants to make it easier to fire federal workers by classifying thousands of them as being outside civil service protections. That could weaken the government's power to enforce statutes and rules by draining parts of the workforce and permit his administration to staff offices with more malleable employees than last time.

But if some or all of these tenets of modern democracy are to fall, it will be through the most democratic of means. Voters chose him—and by extension, this—not Democrat Kamala Harris, the vice president.

And by early measures, it was a clean election, just like 2020.

Eric Dezenhall is a scandal-management expert who has followed Trump's business and political career and correctly predicted his wins in 2016 and now. He also foresaw that the criminal cases against Trump would help, not hurt, him.

Sussing out what Trump truly intends to do and what might be bluster is not always easy, he said. "There are certain things that he says because they cross his brain at a certain moment," Dezenhall said. "I don't put stock in that. I put stock in themes, and there is a theme of vengeance."

So it remains to be seen whether America will get two special days Trump has promised.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-25
SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE, AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) SYSTEM AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PA SYSTEM **(RFP-008-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 01, 2024
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950-1055
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-25

PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBB) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning October 18, 2024, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit card. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., November 08, 2024 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential proposers an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting a proposal, proposers who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Zachary Reyes of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6535. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Airport Manager via email at frank.duenas@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, November 13, 2024.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs of the three (3) Passenger Boarding Bridges, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport /RFP-006-25". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 19, 2024,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA Date: October 18, 2024
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-25

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 08, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 30 UNITS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (RFP-002-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 08, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-25

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024 (2:00 P.M.)

"ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT **(IFB-003-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: _____
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

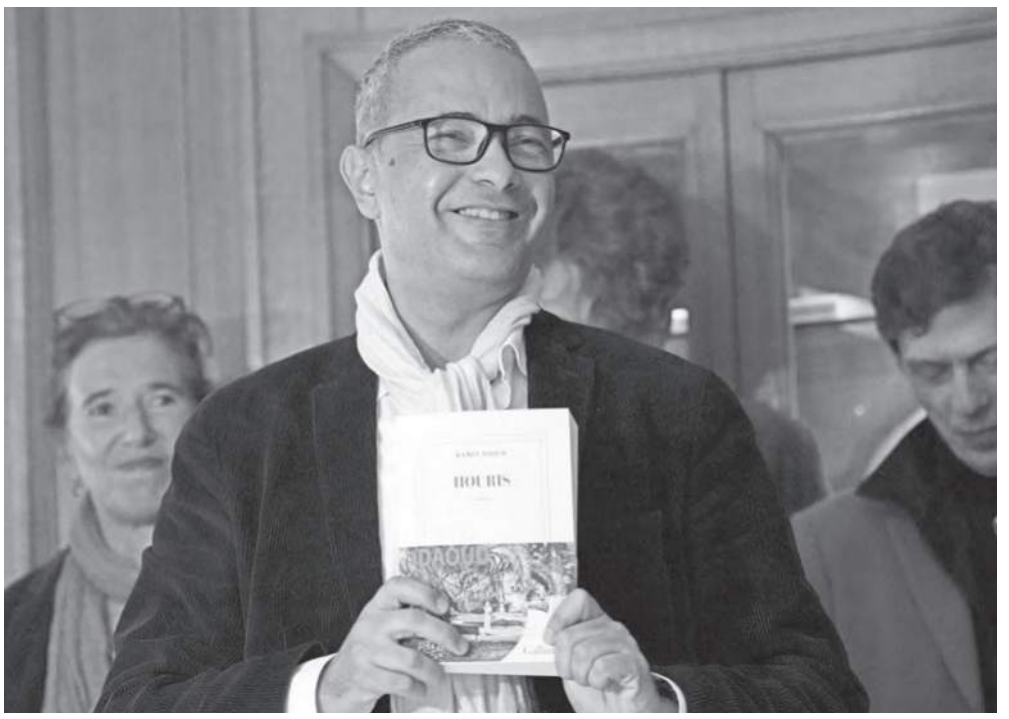
Life & Style

Algeria book fair opens without Kamel Daoud

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—As one of the Arab world's largest book fairs opens in Algeria on Wednesday, there is one conspicuous absence. French-Algerian author Kamel Daoud, who won France's most prestigious literary award earlier this week, was not invited to this year's event.

This year's Prix Goncourt winner and his French publisher Gallimard—a regular participant—are among those who won't be welcomed at the Algiers International Book Fair. The exclusion of several prominent authors and publishers from this year's event reflects the ongoing limitations on freedom of expression in Algeria.

Daoud's novels and their subject matter often polarize opinions in both France, where he lives, and Algeria, where he was born. His Goncourt-winning third novel Houris (Virgins, in English) centers on the memories of victims of Algeria's "Black Decade." After Islamists won the first round of legislative elections in 1990, Algeria descended into civil war after the second round was canceled by the military-backed government.



AP

Algerian-French novelist Kamel Daoud holds his book Houris after being awarded with the Goncourt, France's most prestigious literary prize, Monday, Nov. 4, 2024 in Paris.

Though memories of that history loom large, Houris will not be among the more than 300,000 titles available at the book fair, which is being marketed under the slogan "Read to Triumph" and billed for having a special focus on history.

Ali Bey, the owner of Algiers' Librarie du Tiers Monde, said he was "delighted" to see Daoud's international recognition but lamented that Algerian readers would not be able to purchase his novels.

The censorship extends beyond Daoud and Gallimard. Koukou Publishing, an independent Algerian house led by former political activist Arezki Ait Larbi, has also been excluded from this year's festival. Koukou—known for publishing works by essayists, novelists and journalists whose writings often challenge official narratives—wasn't invited either, Ait Larbi wrote in a Facebook post.

Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine strikes deal to end jail stint

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine struck a deal to end his current jail stint, agreeing to serve a month behind bars for violating the terms of his release after a felony conviction, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The deal with federal prosecutors was described in a letter partially endorsed by a Manhattan federal judge. It calls for the entertainer to be sentenced to a month in jail, followed by a month of home incarceration, a month of home detention and a month of curfew. He would also be subject to electronic monitoring.

Judge Paul A. Engelmayer said he will sentence the performer whose real name is Daniel Hernandez immediately after he admits to the violations at a Nov. 12 hearing. He said he will require each side to explain why a one-month jail sentence followed by three months of home incarceration, detention or curfew are sufficient for repeated violations of probation.

The terms of the deal also call for Tekashi 6ix9ine to submit to supervision from the court's Probation Department for another year.

Tekashi 6ix9ine, 28, was within a few months of being free from court supervision when he was arrested on Oct. 29 after his probation officer complained that he wasn't following rules about obtaining permission in advance to travel and that he had failed drug tests.

In 2019, Engelmayer sentenced him to two years in prison in a racketeering case after the musician pleaded guilty that same year to charges accusing him of joining and directing violence by the gang known as the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods.

AP

Rapper Daniel Hernandez, known as Tekashi 6ix9ine, performs during the Philipp Plein women's 2019 Spring-Summer collection, unveiled during the Fashion Week in Milan, Italy, Sept. 21, 2018.

Influencer is banned from future NYC marathons

NEW YORK (AP)—A social media influencer from Texas was disqualified from last weekend's New York City Marathon and banned from future competitions after he ran the race with a camera crew on e-bikes in tow.

New York Road Runners, which organizes the venerable race, said in a statement Tuesday that Matthew Choi violated the group's code of conduct and competition rules, not to mention those of World Athletics, running's international governing body.

"One of the incidents brought to NYRR's attention was that Choi ran with the assistance of two unauthorized people riding the course on electric bicycles, obstructing runners," the group said.

Choi, 29, finished the 26.2-mile (42.2-kilometer) course with a time of 2:57:15, or about 50 minutes behind Abdi Nageeye, the winner of the men's race.

The former football player for Monmouth University in New Jersey posted several videos of him running the marathon on his social media accounts that immediately drew scorn.

"As a runner, seeing him was amazing. Gave me extra motivation to pass him and make sure I never had to see him and his dumb crew for the rest of the race," wrote one user on Reddit.

Choi, of Austin, Texas, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Tuesday. He was apologetic on his Instagram account, where he posts videos about running and fitness to his more than 400,000 followers.

Choi acknowledged that the filming endangered other competitors, prevented some from possibly reaching personal best race times, and even blocked some from getting a drink at designated water stations. More than 55,000 runners completed the race, which wound through all five of New York City's boroughs.

Bitter feelings for mean teacher persist decades later

DEAR ABBY: My elementary school teacher passed away recently. I hadn't seen her in more than 20 years because of how she made me feel. I remember her as manipulative and having a negative attitude toward the less fortunate. Because I didn't come from a rich or prominent family, I was subjected to humiliation, fear and intimidation. I remember her as money-driven, judgmental and favoring the privileged, who she believed to be smarter.

Because I had dyslexia, I had difficulties reading and interpreting words, so she made me stand and face shame for hours. Now that she is dead, I realize I never had the chance to tell her how wrong she was, and that in middle school my negative attitude toward education changed for the better because I had excellent teachers and great classmates.

Those individuals who are eulogizing her now are the same ones she promoted and favored. I just wish I could speak my piece because many were mistreated.

SCARRED IN TEXAS

DEAR SCARRED: I think you have stated your feelings very well. This teacher may not have recognized she had a student with a learning disability and punished you when she should have realized instead that what you needed to succeed was extra help. Consider her inability to deal with it properly HER learning disability, and try to forgive her. You have turned out very well despite her, and it is time to evict her from your head.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is there any way I can help my 55-year-old daughter, who has just embarked upon yet another no-doubt doomed relationship? She is quick to cohabit with these men, usually after less than two months. Then my daughter reinvents herself to appeal to HIS ideal. Each time the relationships have ended, it has come at great cost to her and negatively impacted her now-grown kids.

Through all of this, my daughter has remained employed, though four years is a long time in one position. I'm afraid the latest move will limit her employment options once the work-from-home trend has softened. Is this like dealing with a drug addict or an alcoholic who must realize on their own to seek help? This roller coaster has taken its toll on me, too.

MOM ON THE SIDELINES

DEAR MOM: You can talk until you are blue in the fac—and I am assuming that you have tried more than once—to get your middle-aged daughter to realize that what she has been doing hasn't worked for her. She is not an "addict," but she is desperate to find a partner.

When your daughter finally realizes that she doesn't have to twist herself into a pretzel to please a man, and that she's fine just the way she is—a successful parent, self-supporting and worthwhile on her own—she not only may feel better about herself, but also have better luck in finding a partner.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

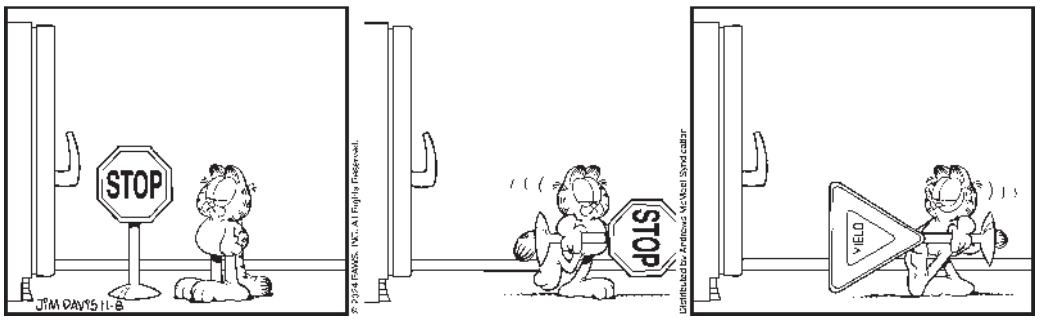
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CANINE HEALTH IS VERY IMPORTANT.
DO YOU GO ON REGULAR WALKS WITH YOUR OWNER?
NO, BUT WE DRIVE TOGETHER TO THE QUICK-MART TO GET A 6-PACK AND CANDY BARS.
TSK TSK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pickle holder
4 Orig. texts
7 Shiny lip applica-tion
12 Giverny summer
13 U.K. recording label
14 Gossip
15 Tolkien monster
16 Massive
18 Actress Vardalos
19 Bygone Olds
20 Openings
22 Farm female
23 Drench
27 Writer's block?
29 Fan-shaped tree
31 Venom-ous viper
34 Limb sta-bilizers
35 — Mae
37 Memo letters
38 "Zounds!"
39 Neckline shape
41 Canal feature
45 Church chimers
47 Quilters' get-together
48 Bar mixer
52 USN bigwig
53 — Carta
54 Bit of ink
55 Sailor's chart
56 Animal's nose
57 Twisty letter
58 Curator's concern

DOWN
1 "Commu-nity" actor Ken
2 Places in the heart
3 Summary
4 Very large
5 Showed pleasure
6 Tendon
7 Greek pita sandwich
8 NASA moon craft
9 Artist Yoko
10 Disco guy on "The Simp-sons"
11 Airline to Sweden
17 Calif. neighbor
21 Shell out
23 Slow mover
24 Letters of approval?
25 CIA employee
26 Decks in the ring
28 Onassis nickname
30 Glacial
31 Mature
32 Use a shovel
33 Genetic stuff
36 Always
37 Dudes
40 Delight
42 "Becom-ing" memoirist
43 Fragrant wood
44 Neat
45 Ex-hausted
46 Wimble-don divisions
48 Baseball execs
49 "Atone-ment" author McEwan
50 Private aid gp.
51 Bearded beast

Solution time: 25 mins.

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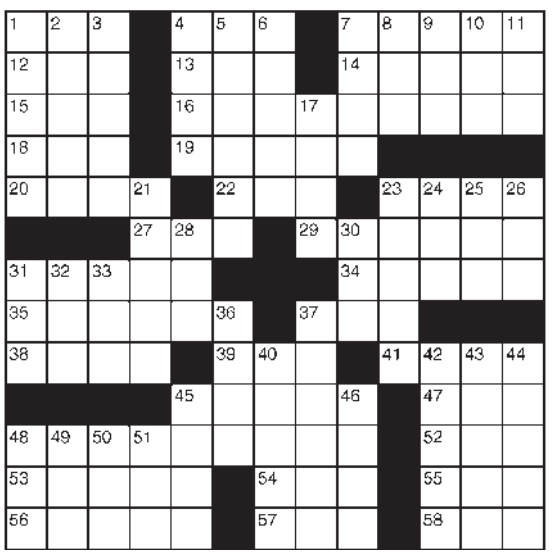
Yesterday's answer 11-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Osbourne, 39; Parker Posey, 56; Gordon Ramsay, 58; Bonnie Raitt, 75.

Happy Birthday: Trust your instincts. A lifestyle change that points you in a direction offering long-term benefits will put your mind at ease. A proactive approach to investments will pay off. Do the legwork, research your options and go the distance to reach your goal. A passionate approach to life will lead to knowledge and to pastimes that encourage you to explore what's available and to connect with people heading in a similar direction. Your numbers are 5, 16, 26, 32, 37, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make choices that put your mind at ease. Put your trust in facts, not hearsay. Create opportunities that enhance your looks or encourage better health. Take a journey that propagates a healthy lifestyle and connects you to a group that helps you build strong values and set a routine. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to stop talking and act. A change will exhilarate you and help get your confidence back. Rethink your strengths and weaknesses and aim to enforce a healthier routine. Let go of the past and tone down indulgent behavior. Refuse to let drama overcome common sense. ✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone ruin your plans or take advantage of you financially. Consider what you want to achieve and keep an eye on your objective. An unexpected offer will have flaws. Research thoroughly and walk away from any deal that lacks authenticity. Partnerships will lead to personal gain. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Now is not the time to be a homebody. Engage in networking events, exhibits or activities that interest you. You'll gain insight into something that brings you joy or points you in a direction that helps you get ahead professionally. Mix business with pleasure, and prosper. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for opportunities to shine. Step into the spotlight and let your dynamic personality inspire others to see the possibilities. Your input will attract attention and offers that are worth considering. Both personal and professional deals can turn into lifelong partnerships. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Respond carefully. Someone will overreact or misinterpret what you say. Pay attention to detail and leave nothing to the imagination. Bring forth positive ideas with solid proof that what you propose is doable, and you'll gain ground and avoid being upstaged by someone trying to outmaneuver you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Accumulate information that can make your journey easier. A mental or physical exercise will allow you to test the plausibility of setting out on a new adventure or educational pursuit, or attending a reunion that either reopens or concludes unfinished business. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Try something new and explore the possibilities. A creative outlet or a novel proposition will lead to reimagining how to use your skills, possessions or ideas to bring in extra cash or make your life easier. Take care of your physical and mental health. Say no to temptation. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put an investment plan together, or use your skills and talents to bring in extra cash. Hard work will pay off if you refuse to let outsiders interfere or scammers take advantage of you. A chance to meet someone of interest or reconnect with an old friend is likely. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's up to you to initiate a change if that's what you want. Altering your environment will spark your imagination and influence your perception. Don't let negativity or lack of understanding stand in your way. Seize the moment, get the lowdown and turn a thought into a reality. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let your emotions stand in the way or lead you astray. Keep situations in perspective and go directly to the source before you act on hearsay. You stand to make the most progress if you use your intelligence and engage in events that concur with your beliefs. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend time rearranging your workspace to optimize output. It's up to you to organize, customize and declutter your life. Allowing someone to define what's best for you will hinder your chance to advance. Refrain from letting anyone else handle your money, health issues and decisions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bold, charismatic and determined. You are energetic and shrewd.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	4	6		3		7	
			9	2		4		
7				4	8			
		3			2		1	
	1					9		6
		7		9				5
8	7					2		4
				3				
		6			9		5	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	1	3	2	5	7	8	6	9
9	6	5	8	3	1	2	4	7
2	7	8	4	6	9	5	3	1
8	4	9	6	1	5	7	2	3
5	3	7	9	8	2	4	1	6
6	2	1	3	7	4	9	8	5
3	9	2	7	4	6	1	5	8
1	8	4	5	9	3	6	7	2
7	5	6	1	2	8	3	9	4

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Difficulty: ★★★ 11/7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PRIMIDONE (MEDICATION) Solution: 9 letters

T	N	E	V	E	R	P	H	A	R	M	A	C	Y	A
A	I	N	V	O	L	U	N	T	A	R	Y	C	G	P
B	M	Y	T	Y	S	P	E	L	I	P	E	E	W	U
L	A	C	R	M	O	T	O	R	I	L	N	A	C	R
E	T	E	L	O	E	S	E	L	L	T	T	S	O	Y
T	I	N	B	A	M	D	L	S	N	E	R	E	N	S
N	V	T	O	O	S	E	I	E	R	E	A	I	N	N
E	I	R	D	H	T	S	M	C	E	U	T	Z	E	O
M	T	A	Y	U	E	T	L	E	I	P	N	U	C	I
S	A	L	O	H	N	A	L	L	S	N	S	R	T	T
S	L	R	T	I	M	E	L	E	I	S	E	E	I	C
E	S	N	O	C	I	N	O	T	I	F	A	N	O	E
S	Y	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	H	T	E	G	N	R
S	P	R	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	C	A	R	E	I
A	W	A	R	E	N	E	S	S	E	G	A	S	O	D

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Agent, Appointment, Assessment, Awareness, Body, Bottle, Care, Cells, Central, Class, Connection, Directions, Dosage, Epilepsy, Health, Involuntary, Medicine, Memory, Message, Motor, Nurse, Patient, Pharmacy, Pill, Prescribe, Prevent, Refill, Route, Seizure, Sleep, Synthesis, Syrup, Tablet, Tissue, Tonic, Vitals, Vitamin, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Chicago

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Thunder suffers 1st loss of season as SGA blocked in dying seconds

DENVER (AP)—Russell Westbrook scored 29 points, Peyton Watson blocked a shot in the closing seconds after missing a pair of free throws at the other end and the injury-riddled Denver Nuggets rallied to beat Oklahoma City 124-122 on Wednesday night to hand the Thunder their first loss of the season.

Nikola Jokic finished with 23 points, 20 rebounds and 16 assists as the Nuggets rebounded from a 16-point deficit in the third quarter. Christian Braun added 24.

Michael Porter Jr. came up big after a slow start, scoring 21 of his 24 points in the second half. The short-handed Nuggets were without power forward Aaron Gordon (strained calf) and point guard Jamal Murray (concussion protocol).

Watson had a chance to seal the game at the line with 16 seconds left but missed both free throws. He made up for it by swatting the shot of a driving Shai Gilgeous-Alexander just before the buzzer sounded.

Jalen Williams led the Thunder with 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists while Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, right, pulls in a rebound as forward Chet Holmgren, second from left, gets tangled up with Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr., far left, and center Nikola Jokic n the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, in Denver.

CELTICS 118, WARRIORS 112

BOSTON (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 27 points, Buddy Hield had 16 and the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 118-112 on Wednesday night for their fifth straight victory.

Andrew Wiggins also added 16 points for Golden State (7-1). Curry played his second straight after missing three with an ankle injury.

Jayson Tatum led Boston (7-2) with 32 points, and Derrick White had 26 with six rebounds.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr was booed by the TD Garden crowd that showed its displeasure over how he used Tatum at the Paris Olympics.

With Warriors holding a 115-112 lead, Draymond Green hit a free throw with 11 seconds left. Kyle Anderson sealed it with two free throws with 2.4 seconds to play.

Boston forward Jaylen Brown missed his third straight game with a strained left hip flexor. Warriors guard Brandin Podziemski was out with an illness.

HORNETS 108, PISTONS 107

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Brandon Miller scored off an offensive rebound at the buzzer to lift Charlotte to a thrilling victory over Detroit.

Miles Bridges had 27 points and LaMelo Ball added 25 points on five 3-pointers for the Hornets, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Miller finished with 19 points.

Cade Cunningham had a triple-double for Detroit with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Jaden Ivey added 21 points for the Pistons.

Miller's putback avenged a huge turnover just seconds earlier.

With the Hornets leading by one and trying to run out the clock, Miller got caught in a double team and the Pistons wrestled the ball away from him.

Ron Holland picked up the loose ball and drove from halfcourt for a go-ahead layup with 6.3 seconds left to give the Pistons the lead, stunning the home crowd.

But on Charlotte's final possession, Miller grabbed Grant Williams' missed three-pointer on the left side of the lane and quickly put it back in off the backboard for the winner and was promptly mobbed by his teammates.

PACERS 118, MAGIC 111

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Bennedict Mathurin scored 20 points, four teammates each had 17, and Indiana defeated Orlando.

Ahead two in the final minute, the Pacers' Tyrese Haliburton sank a three-pointer and Mathurin made two foul shots. Six of nine Pacers scored in double digits. Haliburton, Myles Turner, Pascal Siakam and Jarace Walker each scored 17. T.J. McConnell had 15.

Orlando's Franz Wagner led all scorers with 28. Jalen Suggs added 15 and Moritz Wagner had 14 off the bench.

Hawks 121, Knicks 116

No. 1 overall pick Zaccharie Risacher scored 33 points and had seven rebounds and Atlanta rallied late to beat New York 121-116.

Risacher's 33 points were the most by a rookie this season. He also had three assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

The Hawks trailed 110-105 with 2:57 to play, but went on a 13-1 run to put the game away.

Jalen Johnson had 23 points and 15 rebounds. Trae Young had 23 points, 10 assists and six rebounds one game after scoring just two points on 1-for-10 shooting against Boston.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Knicks with 34 points and 16 rebounds. Jalen Brunson scored 21 points.

HAWKS 110, KNICKS 105

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GRIZZLIES 131, LAKERS 114

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Ja Morant scored 20 points before leaving in the third quarter with a right hamstring injury and Memphis used their 3-point shooting to beat Los Angeles.

Rookie Jaylen Wells and Jaren Jackson Jr. also scored 20 points each for the Grizzlies. There was no immediate word on the extent of Morant's injury.

LeBron James led the Lakers with 39 points, while Austin Reaves added 19 despite going 2 for 9 from 3-point range.

The Lakers played without starting centre Anthony Davis, who was suffering from left heel soreness. Rui Hachimura was also out with an illness, giving rookie Dalton Knecht from Tennessee his first NBA start.

Meanwhile, Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins missed the game because of a death in the family. Assistant coach Tuomas Iisalo led the team.

CAVALIERS 131, PELICANS 122

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points and Cleveland defeated New Orleans to open 9-0 for the first time in their 55-year NBA history.

Caris LeVert and Jarrett Allen each added 16 points, and Allen grabbed 14 rebounds as the Cavaliers surpassed an 8-0 start by the 1976-77 squad that finished 43-39 under coach Bill Fitch.

Zion Williamson returned from a two-game absence and had 29 points for the Pelicans. He temporarily took himself out after playing 10 minutes, but returned to start the second half and scored 23 after halftime.

Jose Alvarado hit all seven 3-pointers he took and finished with 27 points for New Orleans. Brandon Ingram added 20 points for the Pelicans, who have lost three straight and six of seven.

MAVERICKS 119, BULLS 99

DALLAS (AP) Luka Doncic had 27 points and 13 assists, Kyrie Irving scored 17 points and Daniel Gafford also scored 17 playing a season-high 24 minutes as Dallas beat Chicago.

The defending Western Conference champions scored the first 13 points of the second half and led by as many as 30 while improving to 2-2 on a five-game homestand.

Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and 10 rebounds while sitting out the fourth quarter to lead the Bulls, who have lost three straight games. Rookie Matas Buzelis, who had five total points this season going into play, had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Dallas played without starting forward P.J. Washington because of a right knee sprain and without Dereck Lively II, who averages the most centre minutes as Gafford's backup, because of a right shoulder sprain.

The Bulls played their second consecutive game without leading scorer Zach LaVine, who has a right adductor strain.

SUNS 115, HEAT 112

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Jusuf Nurkic had 20 points and 18 rebounds, and Phoenix rallied from a 15-point deficit to defeat Miami and extend their winning streak to six games.

The Suns trailed 79-64 in the third quarter but finished the period on a 15-3 run to cut the Heat's lead to three.

Neither team could take control in the fourth, but Durant's jumper from the free-throw line with 16 seconds to play gave Phoenix a four-point lead.

Devin Booker had 22 points and nine assists for Phoenix, which has won its last five games by six points or fewer. Booker made one of two free throws with 4.8 seconds to go, giving the Heat a chance, but Miami failed to get a shot off before time expired.

Grayson Allen scored 12 points and Tyus Jones matched Booker with nine assists for the Suns.

Tyler Herro led the Heat with 28 points. Reserve forward Haywood Highsmith scored 19 and Jimmy Butler added 15. Bam Adebayo had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 110, 76ERS 98

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Norman Powell scored 26 points—his seventh straight game with 20 or more—and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia in Paul George's return to face his old team.

George had 18 points on 7 of 9 shooting and seven rebounds in 24 minutes for the Sixers in his second game of the season. He's on a minutes restriction since a left knee injury delayed his season debut.

James Harden added 18 points, four rebounds and six assists for the Clippers.

Kelly Oubre Jr. also had 18 points for the Sixers. Caleb Martin had 14 points and Andre Drummond had 10 rebounds.

The Sixers were without Joel Embiid who is serving a three-game suspension for shoving a Philly sports columnist. He's due to return on Tuesday, although he has yet to play this season because of a knee injury.

KINGS 122, RAPTORS 107

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points in a record-setting performance and Sacramento beat Toronto.

Domantas Sabonis added 17 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds for his third triple-double of the season for Sacramento. He shot 6 for 6 from the field and 5 for 5 at the free-throw line.

Keegan Murray chipped in with 22 points and 12 rebounds, and De'Aaron Fox scored 21.

DeRozan has scored at least 20 points in each of his first eight games with the Kings, breaking a franchise mark established by Chris Webber when he reached 20 in his first seven games with Sacramento during the 1998-99 season.

RJ Barrett had 23 points to lead the Raptors. Davion Mitchell scored 20 in his first game in Sacramento since being traded to Toronto last summer.

Daniels' breakout season no surprise to those who knew him before NFL

AP

Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels warms up before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in Landover, Md.

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Jayden Daniels has not given much thought to how he has handled half a season playing quarterback in the NFL.

"I still have some ways to go," he said. "I'll sit back and reflect after my rookie year is done."

That's OK. The rest of the sport has plenty to say about Daniels taking the league by storm, leading the Washington Commanders to their first 7-2 start since 1996 and becoming not only the favorite to be the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year but putting himself firmly in the MVP conversation.

"You guys got to stop calling him a rookie quarterback," veteran tight end Zach Ertz said. "He may be a rookie quarterback in terms of years in this league. But his maturity, his poise is that of a 10-year vet."

Daniels' breakout season has come as no surprise to those who knew the San Bernadino, California, native during stints at Arizona State and then LSU, where he blossomed into the 2023 Heisman Trophy winner and the second pick in the draft. Teammates turned friends and coaches over the years have seen a player determined to be the best and a person humble enough to make these past nine weeks look like just the start of a lengthy career with no limit on what Daniels could accomplish.

The start

Inheriting the pressure of being Washington's face of the franchise for an organization decades removed from its glory days did not seem to get to Daniels, who teammates have said has had the same approach since the first day of offseason workouts through throwing a Hail Mary touchdown pass to Noah Brown in Week 8 to beat Chicago.

That is one of his first 163 completions on 228 attempts—a success rate of 71.5% that ranks among the best QBs in the NFL of any experience level. He has thrown for nine touchdowns, run for four more and has just two interceptions.

"He doesn't turn the ball over a lot," said Herm Edwards, who coached Daniels for three seasons at Arizona State. "That isn't part of his DNA. That's not what happens. You never worry about that as far as him with the football in his hand, whether he's throwing it or running. He's become a smarter runner, obviously, and that's needed in this league."

The biggest blip for Daniels came when he injured his ribs getting tackled and landing awkwardly at the end of a long run. He left that game—a 40-7 rout of Carolina—and might have played if the stakes were higher, then he was right back on the field a week later.

Daniels, even with sore ribs, has thrown for 535 yards and three TDs and ran 16 times for 87 yards.

"It's not a surprise to me," said San Francisco receiver Brandon Aiyuk, a teammate of Daniels' at Arizona State. "He's just nice. He's real good. He's just always been that good."

The competitor

Malik Nabers heard the chatter about Daniels when he was transferring to LSU in 2022, and that first season finished with some great numbers: 17 touchdowns, three interceptions and a 10-4 record. Then, after training with C.J. Stroud and others in California, Nabers noticed a shift in Daniels' mindset and demeanor.

"He was just like picking defenses apart," said Nabers, the sixth pick in the draft and now the No. 1 receiver for the NFC East-rival New York Giants. "He was working extra, staying extra long, making sure we got the plays after practice. He was the ultimate leader. I think that's what he changed: He became like the ultimate leader and started leading by example, leading by vocalness and just taking the offense over."

Daniels led the country with 40 TD passes in 2023, ran for 10 more and won the Heisman as the final accomplishment of his college career. But the arriving early and staying late did not stop, from walkthroughs in the team's practice bubble before spring workouts with rookie receiver Luke McCaffrey to nights coach Dan Quinn observed Daniels studying film well after dark during the Commanders' week in Arizona between games.

"It's not any magic that's going into this. ... He really puts in the work," Quinn said. "There's no magic pixie dust that we're throwing into him. It is absolutely grinding, working, and a lot of confidence comes from that."

The innovator

It's not just sweat equity. At LSU, Daniels underwent cognitive processing tests on a computer, and with the school's director of performance innovation, Jack Marucci, developed a program with a virtual reality headset to work on his anticipation.

"You could see his efficiency and speed improving and how he was scanning," Marucci said, pointing out it was like Daniels got another 250 snaps a week and 2,600 over the course of a season. "It's knowing and anticipating where he's going to end up and now you have to hit a spot on the field."

Daniels still uses the VR device, which offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury is "all-in on."

"It's been a great tool, not just for me, but the other quarterbacks—the guys that want to use it to get an edge and get the reps without having to go out there and physically do stuff," Daniels said.

The connection

Kingsbury interviewed for multiple jobs around the NFL. After coaching Patrick Mahomes at Texas Tech, Kyler Murray with the Arizona Cardinals and then (as an adviser) with Caleb Williams at Southern California, the chance to work with Daniels—who was drafted a few months after he was hired in Washington—and the Commanders made too much sense.

"Kliff Kingsbury is an outstanding fit for him," LSU coach Brian Kelly said. "And the kind of offense that they run, it's something that I think is seamless for him."

Cam Taylor-Britt derided it as "simple" and a "nice college offense." Daniels burned the Cincinnati Bengals cornerback and his teammates on 21 of 23 passing for 254 yards and two touchdowns in a 38-33 victory in prime time on "Monday Night Football."

When the Bears-Commanders game was flexed to national TV, it provided Daniels' signature moment so far when he scrambled for nearly 13 seconds and lofted up a pass that sailed 65 yards in the air before tipping up and into Brown's hands in the end zone.

Edwards, who still texts Daniels on a regular basis, almost foreshadowed it talking about the 23-year-old two weeks before the Chicago game.

"He has the ability to extend plays, and what he does—and people can already see it and it's not luck—he can throw the deep ball," said Edwards, who's now an ESPN analyst. "He can throw it with accuracy on the run or from the pocket. He has a feel for throwing the ball down the field."

The composure

The Hail Mary exemplified what everyone around Daniels raves about: his poise under pressure. Edwards calls it Daniels' "ability to keep his composure when the lights got the brightest."

Terry McLaurin, who has been Washington's top receiver since being drafted in 2019, said Daniels came into the league more ready than most rookies at the most important position in sports.

That has been obvious even to opponents. Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson after outdueling Daniels said his counterpart has been proving himself and playing amazing.

"Washington is in good hands with him," Ravens linebacker Roquan Smith said "He's the truth."

Only Jackson, Buffalo's Josh Allen, Mahomes and Detroit's Jared Goff have shorter MVP odds on BetMGM Sportsbook, which now has Daniels at 10-1. Nabers, who initially made a friendly $10,000 bet with Daniels about which one would be AP Offensive Rookie of the Year before canceling it, said his friend's success stems from a desire to win that he doesn't see in many others.

"I know when he is in that moment, he's not scared of it," Nabers said. "He's not scared of the hype, the big plays to be made. If it is crunch time, he wants to ball."

Commanders acquire 4-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marshon Lattimore from Saints

Surprise buyers at the NFL trade deadline, the Washington Commanders made a major splash Tuesday by acquiring four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marshon Lattimore from the New Orleans Saints.

Washington sent third-, fourth- and sixth-round picks in the 2025 draft to New Orleans and got a fifth back along with Lattimore, pending him passing a physical.

Lattimore, 28, provides an instant upgrade on defense for the Commanders, who are off to a 7-2 start to the season and looked to add to augment their unexpected playoff aspirations. He should start alongside Benjamin St-Juste and rookie Mike Sainristil at cornerback in a secondary that also includes impressive safeties Jeremy Chinn and Quan Martin.

Trading Lattimore is the latest shakeup for the Saints after firing coach Dennis Allen following a seventh consecutive loss that dropped them to 2-7. The 2017 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year has been dogged by hamstring injuries that caused him to miss games and was the subject of trade rumors for quite some time.

Lattimore has not allowed a touchdown to be scored on him in coverage since 2021, a strength that makes up for having just two interceptions over that time. His restructured contract made him a low-cost addition for Washington, and he has no guaranteed money remaining.

First-year general manager Adam Peters also did not have to give up many assets the organization did not already have when he was hired in January. Peters got a third-round pick from Philadelphia in the August trade that sent receiver Jahan Dotson to the Eagles, and the sixth going to the Saints is their own from acquiring defensive tackle John Ridgeway from the Commanders just before the start of the season.

Lattimore also gives Peters and coach Dan Quinn options with young struggling cornerback Emmanuel Forbes, who did not play a snap Sunday at the New York Giants. Forbes, a 2023 first-round pick a year after Dotson in a succession of draft mistakes by Ron Rivera's previous regime, has been benched multiple times as a pro.

To make room on the roster for Lattimore, the Commanders released defensive end Efe Obada. ***(AP)***

For teams chasing Oct. glory, building bullpen is vital, confounding exercise

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—For a World Series that was supposed to feature an epic battle between sluggers Aaron Judge and Shohei Ohtani, guys like Mark Leiter Jr., Luke Weaver, Alex Vesia and Anthony Banda sure got a lot of face time.

This year's Fall Classic provided further proof that a great bullpen is essential in baseball, particularly in the postseason. It also has led to concerns from people ranging from superagent Scott Boras to players' association head Tony Clark that the sport is abusing arms.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Blake Treinen celebrates the end of the eighth inning in Game 5 of the baseball World Series against the New York Yankees, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, in New York.

Regardless, building a quality bullpen remains a challenge.

"You need so many arms over the course of the season, and in the postseason, it's even more magnified," Los Angeles Angels general manager Perry Minasian said. "Quality arms, quality strikes. But quantity is a big deal, too. Where do you get it?"

The bullpen is usually an afterthought for casual baseball fans, particularly middle relievers, who don't get the spotlight of the ninth inning. They toil in relative anonymity while getting tough outs in tough situations and are much like NFL offensive linemen—noticed only when something goes terribly wrong.

The Dodgers used Vesia, Banda and Michael Kopech in four out of the five games of the World Series while Blake Treinen and Brusdar Graterol appeared in three games. They combined to throw 15 1/3 innings—often in high-leverage situations—and gave up five runs.

PARRE

From page 16

P.J. Quitugua replied quickly with a run each to even it up, 2-2 at the end of the third.

Parre' Pack's bats went silent in the fourth, while the Blue Jays took the lead, 4-2 from runs by Devin Manahane and Alfred Manglona. Parre' Pack then picked it back up again in the fifth. Delos Santos found the sweet spot and lit up a grand slam with already two outs on the board. With that one swing of the bat, they reclaimed the lead and were up, 6-4.

Blue Jays pitcher Piteg then helped his cause with a three-run jack of his own to overtake Parre' Pack by one, 7-6. However, it was still anybody's game and Parre' Pack weren't going down without a fight.

Then, as if on cue, Goru Iskawa and Jeremy Lizama went into clutch mode and hit back-to-back solo homers in the sixth to reassert Parre' Pack's dominance and lead by one, 8-7.

The Blue Jays couldn't make a comeback like Parre' Pack did and registered three outs before they could cross the bases on their last chance in the seventh inning.

While it was an exchange of the lead between Parre' Pack and the Blue Jays, The Kliq outscored Ur Balls, 19-5.

Ur Balls went four scoreless innings and only reached home in the fifth inning four times. Their last run came in the sixth. But by then, The Kliq had scored 12 runs after an eight-run fourth inning.

Their insurmountable lead became even more unreachable as they slid in five more runs in their last at-bat.

It was a home run derby of sorts as The Kliq's Keoni Kaipat clobbered two, while K.J. Villagomez, Eli Aughenbaugh, Gerald Cabrera, and James Benavente hit one each out of the park.

In other results, Wazzup slipped past Saipal, 7-6; Taotao Mona took down Luchan, 9-5; Brotherhood pummeled Homies, 24-9; Red Torch ignited against Bat Dat Ass Up and won, 10-4; and AB Team forfeited against Yayaya.

PRIME

From page 16

and Angel.

However, Prime 2 kept pace and scored from deep as well and held on to a mere 3-point lead at the end of the first half, 22-18.

Despite Bwii Ballers' big time takes from the deep, Prime 2's consistency and accuracy proved to be the winning factor and pulled away when it mattered most. They kept up with their game plan as they had little margin for error with the Bwii Ballers creeping up from behind, and Prime 2 managed to stick the landing and win by 6 points, 43-37.

In the other game that day, Hercanes defeated Alley-Oops, 34-18.

The friendly league is a mix of NMI Women's National Basketball Team players and beginners. The rules are simple: national players cannot guard new players, and fastbreak plays and full court presses are not allowed.

Interested but don't have a team? Contact Irish Pagarao at (670)285-1138.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prime 2 poses for a group photo during the 2024 Women's Basketball League at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

MP

From page 16

ted it all up, 1-1, in the 17th minute.

But energized and unfazed by the equalizer, MP United came back even stronger after much back-and-forth that amounted to naught. It was in the 26th minute when MP United's Moriah Sablan found herself in scoring position. She seized control of the moment, and fired into the net to reclaim the lead for them, 2-1.

MP United barely had time to celebrate and Paire barely had time to regroup before MP United's next breakthrough. Just two minutes later, Pia Ngewakl made her mark and launched the team's third goal for a lead that had more breathing room, 3-1.

Both teams then could not get the better of the other for the rest of the first half. In the second half, MP United's defense tightened around the pitch like an iron fist, but Paire's Rizza Relucio managed to squeeze her way into MP United's goal to get within one, 2-3, in the 58th.

This sparked the hope for a late comeback, but MP United's defense that faltered momentarily, picked themselves up again and denied Paire entry until the final whistle.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	2	.778	–
Brooklyn	4	4	.500	2½
New York	3	4	.429	3
Toronto	2	7	.222	5
Philadelphia	1	6	.143	5
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	4	5	.444	–
Miami	3	4	.429	–
Charlotte	3	5	.375	½
Orlando	3	6	.333	1
Washington	2	4	.333	½
Central Division				
Cleveland	9	0		–
Indiana	4	4	.500	4½
Chicago	3	5	.375	5½
Detroit	3	6	.333	6
Milwaukee	1	6	.143	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
Houston	5	3	.625	–
Dallas	5	3	.625	–
Memphis	5	4	.556	½
San Antonio	3	5	.375	2
New Orleans	3	6	.333	2½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	7	1	.875	–
Denver	5	3	.625	2
Minnesota	4	3	.571	2½
Portland	3	5	.375	4
Utah	1	6	.143	5½

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Thunder suffers 1st loss of season as SGA blocked in dying seconds.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

For teams chasing Oct. glory, building bullpen is vital, confounding exercise.

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Parre' Pack, The Kliq notch wins in BASA

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Parre' Pack and The Kliq notched wins in the continuation of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Parre' Pack slipped past the Blue Jays, 8-7, in a game that could've gone either way until the very last inning. It was an emotional roller coaster, mirroring the way the lead went up and down for both teams.

But Parre' Pack relied on their firepower and torched Blue Jays pitcher, Austin Piteg, with homers left and right.

Ze Lizama got Parre' Pack on the board first with a solo shot in the second inning, then Jerome Delos Santos followed suit in the third to lead, 2-0. Blue Jays' Terrel Rabago and

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LEIGH GASES
File photo shows Parre' Pack's Henry Lizama about to swing in the batter's box during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field.

LEIGH GASES
File photo shows The Kliq pitcher Peter Tenorio serving up a pitch during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field.

Prime teams notch wins in women's league

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Prime 1 and Prime 2 were on their A-game and showed it off with a win over their foes in the 2024 Women's Basketball League at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai last Sunday.

Prime 1 were in top-tier shape against the Katinko Kweens and beat them, 44-28. Full names for both teams were not provided by organizers.

The young players of Prime 1 held down the veteran ballers of Katinko Kweens with their speed and accuracy. Prime 1's ball handling was managed well and four back-to-back takes from deep 3-point territory by Venice, Mya, Kalia, and another by Venice allowed them to control and widen their lead.

Meanwhile, Maddy of the Kweens attempted to rally her team with a consecutive 10-point shooting spree, but they could only get within 5 points at the end of the first half, 21-16.

The second half only saw Prime 1 become stronger as their hunt for threes didn't stop. They opened it up with a three by Mya as Katinko Kweens struggled with keeping possession and accurate attempts. Venice was a menace from downtown and went on to score two more from there and added in a couple of field goals for 19 points.

The Katinko Kweens were eventually out for the count as Lia delivered the 1-2 knockout punch with two consecutive buckets towards the end of the game for the final 16-point win margin.

As for Prime 2's game against the Bwii Ballers, they escaped with a 43-37 final. Bwii Ballers' names were not given, only their jersey numbers.

Both teams were evenly matched in the first half as they traded possession and the lead teetered between them throughout. But Bwii Ballers paid their dues and lived in three-point territory. Six consecutive 3-pointers were shared between Vina, Anissa,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Prime 1 poses for a group photo during the 2024 Women's Basketball League at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

MP United Pink sinks Paire, 3-2

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club Pink took down Paire FC in a close 3-2 matchup in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Wednesday.

The game, as attested by the final score, was marked by an explosive first half, and a tense defensive latter half of the match.

The pink team broke the ice first as they wasted no time and got down to business with a goal by Jenisha Dubrall in the fourth minute. This set the tone for MP United for an aggressive opening half, as Paire's Tsubakiko Joab knot-

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NMIFA
MP United Pink's Moriah Sablan, left, fights for possession with a Paire defender during their game in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Wednesday.